



CITY OF ATLANTA

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SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

October 5, 2004

Dear Community Partner:

A truly great city is best reflected in its greenspace, its cultural experiences, its schools and its opportunities for its young people.

As mayor, my goal is to continue building a city where young people can walk home safely from school, play in neighborhood parks, drink clean water, get a great education, experience the arts and live in a city that is financially stable.

No mayor or government can accomplish those goals alone. The partnership between a city and its young people is a collaboration of many, not the work of a few. The City of Atlanta and its many business and community partners team up on innovative programs year round to enhance and nurture our young people. Dozens of businesses and community organizations pooled their resources to provide Atlanta's youngest residents with programs throughout the year.

As a new school year is well underway, let me take this opportunity to highlight a few innovative youth programs that illustrate the power of partnerships:

- **Camp Best Friends Summer Program** - traditional summer camp with a twist. This year's theme was "Music, Any Way you Want It!" and it exposed youth 6-16 years old to diverse musical styles from opera to jazz. Over 3,300 young people learned about and participated in traditional camp activities like, arts & crafts, hiking and educational field trips.
- **Chattahoochee Nature Center's Camp Kingfisher** - 50 Atlanta children in second through fifth grades experienced nature first-hand on the Chattahoochee River and they explored plant and animal life in scientific pursuit.
- **Atlanta Urban Conservation Program** - over 250 Atlanta youngsters explored the relationship between urban environments and the forest in a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.
- **Cyber Center computer instruction** - 773 students were provided computer instruction on hardware, software, operating systems, file management, the Internet, online research, e-mail, computer ethics and web privacy and security.
- **Atlanta Jazz Festival Kid's Summer Program** - a partnership with the Georgia State University Rialto Center for Performing Arts. The interactive program included hands on jazz education from professional jazz musicians who visited over 1,000 young people at Atlanta recreation centers.
- **Summer Murals Program** - artists and 137 Atlanta youth worked together to create imaginative artwork that enriches Atlanta neighborhoods. The artwork is displayed in neighborhood centers throughout the City.

We are grateful for the many community partnerships that help us meet the needs of Atlanta's kindergarten through 12th grade students. The City of Atlanta's Weed & Seed program is one of our greatest public school resources. The variety of youth programs range from the **Keep Students in School (K.I.S.S.)** program to curb student truancy, to the T.E.A.M. Spring Break Camp.

The **T.E.A.M (Together Everyone Achieves More) Building Spring Break Camp** is for students in the Pittsburgh and Mechanicsville communities. It provides educational and recreational activities during the Atlanta Public Schools' spring break. This year, some 80 elementary, middle and high school students participated in programs that included a week-long Atlanta Police Department basketball clinic, a community clean up project, and an environmental field study at a 4-H camp in Eatonton, Georgia.

Educational research has repeatedly demonstrated that the study of the arts helps students to work cooperatively, to problem solve and to integrate their creative learning across traditional disciplines. Atlanta continues to provide an array of cultural learning opportunities like the following state funded programs:

- **Saturday Strings** - For 16 weeks at the J.D. Sims Recreation Center, 15 students from ages 5-12 study the violin. The "Suzuki Method" teaches them to play in a manner that encourages positive self-esteem, listening and critical thinking as well as parental involvement in the program. The students had the pleasure of taking a workshop led by renowned Grammy nominated violinist Regina Carter.
- **Arts After School** - This artist inspired program is an after school program for children at the Thomasville Recreation Center and focuses on African American artists. The students use charcoal, pencil, acrylic paint and oil pastels to express their 'inner artist'.

Many young people want to be prepared to enter the workforce, so many look for their first summer jobs. The Atlanta Workforce Development Agency (AWDA) provides summer employment opportunities for Atlanta teenagers. This year some 800 young people between 14-18 gained invaluable work skills and training during the summer.

The art-based Arts' Cool program provided 42 teens with apprenticeships that combined art, job training and employment.

It is clear that college recruitment and career fairs can help students plan for life after high school. The City of Atlanta Dream Jamboree has proven to be an effective way to reach those students.

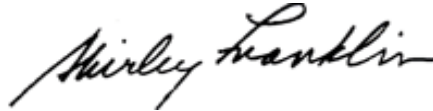
- **Dream Jamboree** - A two-day college and career fair is held annually for thousands of Atlanta 10th, 11th and 12th grade students. The Atlanta Dream Jamboree enables students and their parents to meet with post secondary education and career training representatives in preparation for graduation from high school.

Atlanta Public School Superintendent, Beverly L. Hall affirms, "Effective partnerships can and should be an invaluable strategy to effect systemic school reform and real progress in education. Through effective partnerships, the business and larger community realizes it can effectively impact the "end product" - the students."

Atlanta's youth deserve the best so let's continue to give them our best. The City of Atlanta and its young people, what a powerful partnership!

If you are interested in supporting Atlanta's young people with your time, talents and treasures, please contact Weed & Seed 404.330.6086 and Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs 404.817.6744.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Franklin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Franklin